



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**BREVARD COUNTY ARMED ROBBER SENTENCED
TO 106 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

ORLANDO - U.S. District Court Judge John Antoon, II today sentenced a Cocoa man, **Ronald Bernard Mills**, age 38, to a term of imprisonment of 106 years and 10 months for the armed robberies of four Brevard County businesses in October 2002. Mills previously had been convicted of four counts of armed robbery and four counts of the use of a firearm during a crime of violence after a jury trial in May 2003. In addition to this prison sentence, Mills must serve 5 years in a supervised release program, perform 150 hours of community service, pay an \$800 special assessment and make full restitution to the victims of the robbery.

According to the evidence presented at the trial, Mills robbed Brevard County branches of the Space Coast Credit Union and the Bank of America, as well as convenience stores belonging to Amerada Hess Corporation and 7-11 Corporation, between October 11 and October 18, 2002. During these offenses, Mills possessed a loaded .22 caliber revolver which he used to threaten bank employees, customers and store clerks while robbing the businesses of cash.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort among the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the

Brevard Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), the Cocoa Police Department, the Rockledge Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the ATF. United States Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials, calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.